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**INFORMATION ON HB 2006 - DNR 2015 APPROPRIATION BILL
PRESENTED TO THE WELL INSTALLATION BOARD ON AUGUST 22, 2014**

The Missouri Legislature passed an appropriation bill (HB 2006) during the 2014 session that appropriated money for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). One of the line items included a large appropriation for the integration of data in the DNR. The discussion during the passage of this bill was centered on permitting issues.

The Groundwater protection fund was appropriated \$84,686 for this project. The appropriation allows for 50% flexibility between funds. The Missouri Water Well Association believes this appropriation is excessive for several reasons that are listed below:

1. Most permit work done by the Groundwater Protection Section is renewal of licenses for drillers that have been permitted for years. The number of new permits is minimal each year.
2. Persons permitted(licensed) by this funding have very little, if any, inter action with other programs in the DNR. This would virtually eliminate the need for integrated data.
3. The current automated system for licensing drillers is adequate for the renewal of permits (licenses) and we understand that the testing for new applicants will be on line soon. To our knowledge no other persons use this system other than well drillers and pump installers.
4. According to DNR Staff as reported to the Well Installation Board (WIB) at their quarterly meetings, the funding for this section is just barely covering the section's costs. They are holding at least two vacancies at all times. To add this large of a burden to an already stretched budget would be a unsustainable without fee increases.to the industry and the general public.
5. We understand that this funding may be scheduled for two fiscal years, effectively doubling the impact on their budget.
6. This fund was created to protect Missouri's groundwater and that is what the fund is to be used for. We see no reasonable way this data integration project would serve to protect the groundwater, or to help the persons who use this data.



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7. If the fund cannot sustain this drain on resources, the fees will have to be raised. This will impact an industry of small businesses, persons having wells drilled, plugged or repaired. This additional impact on an industry and economy that is struggling at this time for data integration that is not needed and will not protect the groundwater is, at best, a poor use of state funds and at worst, an unjust and unwarranted fee increase.

We believe that it would be wrong to expend this funding on a project that will not enhance the groundwater, help the permittees (licensees) or citizens that use the data. If this data integration is needed for large, time and resource consuming permits that require applicants to work with several programs in DNR, those programs should bear the cost of the data project. Those programs and their permit applicants will benefit from the data integration.

The WIB should be as concerned as the MWWA about the use of the Groundwater Protection Fund for this purpose. It is also noted that this \$84,686 is proportionately unfair. This fund is being assessed far more than some of the programs that will and can actually benefit from this data integration. The Department should not spend GWP funds for this at all. MWWA is asking the WIB to consider writing a letter to DNR Director, Sara Pauley, opposing spending this money from the GWP Fund on data integration.